

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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- 1 1. A computer system comprising:
- 2 a first agent;
- 3 a point to point half duplex interface coupled to the first agent; and
- 4 a second agent coupled to the point to point half duplex interface,
- 5 wherein the first agent is adaptable to transmit a signal to the second agent via a
- 6 first component of the interface indicating the type of access of the interface the
- 7 first agent is requesting.
- 1 2. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the second agent is adaptable to
- 2 transmit a signal to the first agent via the first component of the interface indicating the
- 3 type of access of the interface the second agent is requesting.
- 1 3. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the signal indicates that the request to
- 2 access the interface is a critical request.
- 1 4. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the signal indicates that the request to
- 2 access the interface is a best effort request.
- 1 5. The computer system of claim 3 wherein the first component of the interface is
- 2 a preempt wire.

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1 11. The computer system of claim 10 wherein the ICH is adaptable to transmit a
2 signal to the MCH via the first component of the interface indicating the type of access
3 of the interface the ICH is requesting the MCH.

1 12. The computer system of claim 10 wherein the signal indicates that the request
2 to access the interface is a critical request.

1 13. The computer system of claim 10 wherein the signal indicates that the request
2 to access the interface is a best effort request.

1 14. The computer system of claim 12 wherein the MCH preempts access of the
2 interface by the ICH if the ICH is a best effort access or a timer corresponding to the
3 ICH has expired.

1 15. The computer system of claim 12 wherein the ICH retains access of the
2 interface if the ICH is a critical access and a timer corresponding to the second agent
3 has expired.

1 16. A method comprising:
2 a first agent requesting a critical access to a point to point half duplex interface;
3 determining whether a second agent has control of the interface;
4 if so, asserting a preempt component of the interface at the first agent; and
5 waiting for control of the interface to be granted to the first agent.

[illegible]

1 21. The method of claim 18 further comprising:
2 determining whether a timer has expired if the current access of the interface at
3 the second agent is a critical access; and
4 if not, retaining control of the interface at the second agent.

